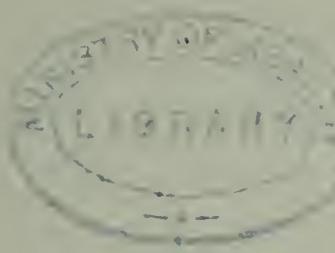


LIBRARY



Council Offices,  
STURMINSTER NEWTON,  
Dorset.

30th May, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members,  
Sherborne Rural District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1951.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of Article 17(5) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district during the year has remained good and that there has been no undue incidence of serious infectious disease.

I am indebted to Mr. Shepherd and Mr. Poole, your Sanitary Inspectors, for their co-operation and help during the year, and for assistance in preparing this report, and to my clerk, Miss. L. Davidge, for her efficient services.

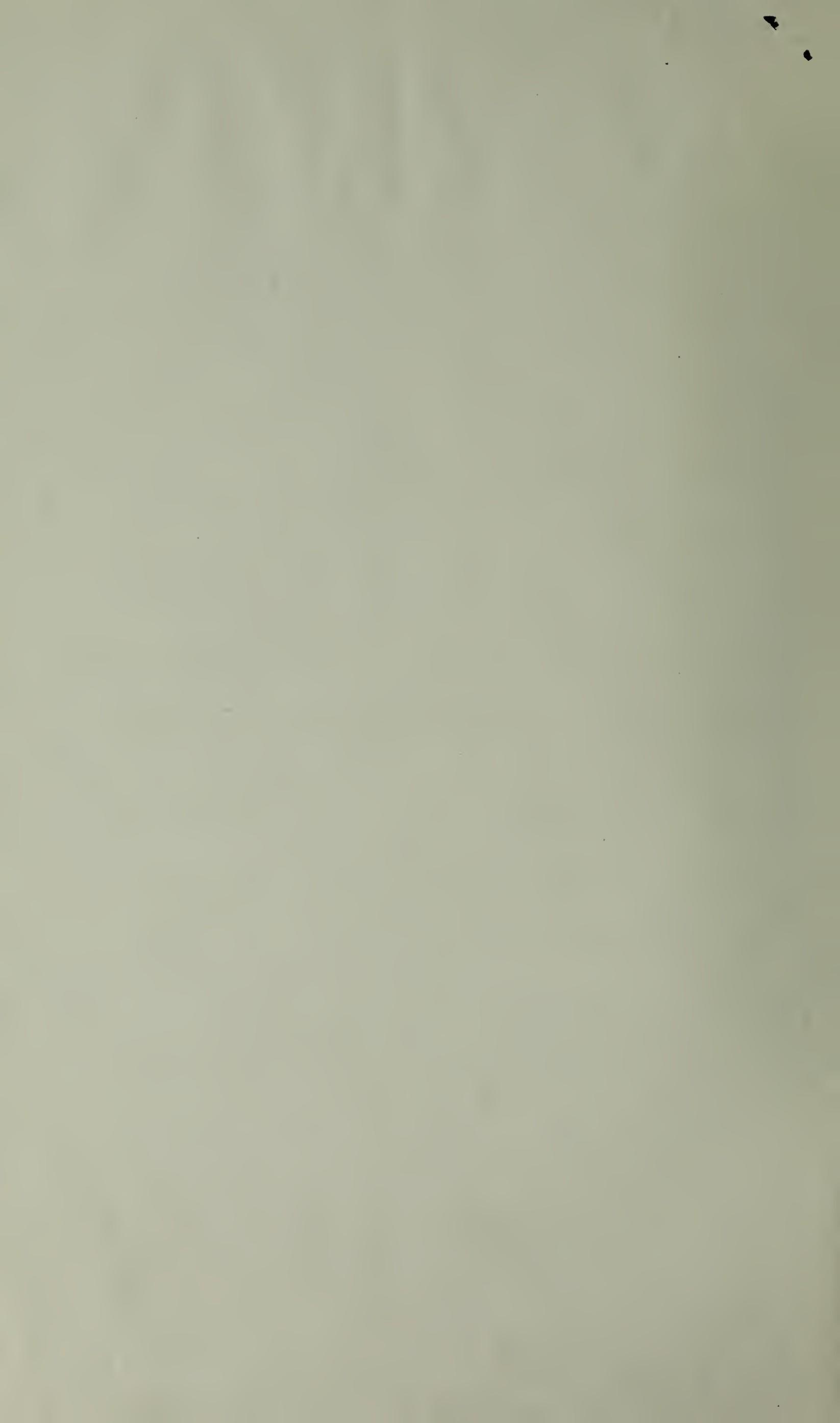
I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servt,

*John D. Collier*

Medical Officer of Health.



SHEPHERD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR

1951.

A. Area - 41,481 acres.  
Rateable value - £26,000  
Production of a penny acre - £106. 3. 4.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population (Registered) - Rural's Estimate, 1950

LIVE BIRTHS.

Estimated figures for  
(a) North Dorset (b) England & Wales.

|              | Male | Female |                 |      |      |
|--------------|------|--------|-----------------|------|------|
| Total        | 63   | 51     | Rate per 1,000  |      |      |
| Legitimate   | 60   | 34     | ) resident pop: |      |      |
| Illegitimate | 3    | -      | = 16.1 (14.5)   | 15.7 | 15.5 |

STILLBIRTHS.

|       |   |   |                |     |      |
|-------|---|---|----------------|-----|------|
| Total | 2 | 2 | Rate per 1,000 |     |      |
|       |   |   | resident pop:  |     |      |
|       |   |   | = 0.33         | 0.4 | 0.36 |

DEATHS.

|       |    |    |                |      |      |
|-------|----|----|----------------|------|------|
| Total | 42 | 37 | Rate per 1,000 |      |      |
|       |    |    | resident pop:  |      |      |
|       |    |    | = 13.1 (12.2)  | 13.1 | 12.5 |

|               |   |   |                 |  |  |
|---------------|---|---|-----------------|--|--|
| Deaths in     |   |   | Infantile death |  |  |
| infants under |   |   | rate per 1,000  |  |  |
| one year      | 3 | - | live births     |  |  |

$$= 30.9 \quad 35.0 \quad 29.6$$

Deaths from Tuberculosis - 2

Deaths from maternal causes - 0

3. Personal Health Services in the district.

The personal health services, including the ambulance service, in the district continued to be provided by the County Council. It has not yet been possible to develop the County Council's Domestic Home Help Service in the district. Otherwise the services provided have been adequate and no further comment with regard to them is considered necessary.

The Laboratory Services, provided by the West Dorset Group Hospital Management Committee, have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

4. Environmental Health Services.

Sanitary circumstances of the district.

1. SANITARY STAFF.

H. Shepherd, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Chief Sanitary Inspector, Building Surveyor & Water Engineer (Engaged part-time on sanitary duties).  
L. Poole, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Additional Sanitary Inspector (Engaged full-time on sanitary duties).

Clerical staff- one senior and one junior clerk.

## 2. WATER SUPPLY.

Rainfall for the year 1951 (as recorded by Mr. C.E. Bean of 13 Barton Gardens, Sherborne) = 45.52 inches.

### (a) Quantity.

Although shortages of water were again experienced during the year due to fall in yields of the springs and owing to leakages on some of the principal mains caused by Oxford clay, the maintenance of a more adequate supply than during previous years was obtained by taking approximately 4 million gallons of water from the Sherborne Urban District Council's supply. Approximately 8 million gallons of water was purchased from the Sturminster Rural District Council to supply Holwell and Bishops Caundle.

### (b) Quality.

The bacteriological quality of some of the supplies still proves to be unsatisfactory, in particular the Southern Parishes supply. Chlorination of all the Council's supplies is carried out.

The private supply to approximately 60 persons at the Home of St. Francis at Batcombe showed evidence of gross bacteriological contamination as a result of which advice was given as to measures to be taken to improve the quality of this supply.

### Examination of water supplies.

The following number of samples of water were submitted for examination during the year:-

| <u>Council Supplies.</u>  | <u>Bacteriological.</u> | <u>Chemical.</u> | <u>Chlorine Estimation.</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Southern Parishes         | 32                      | 1                | 22                          |
| Leigh Supply              | 14                      | 1                | 5                           |
| Holwell & Bishops Caundle | 4                       | -                | 1                           |
| Bradford Abbas            | 12                      | -                | -                           |
| Poyniton                  | 10                      | -                | -                           |
| Trent & Sandford Orcas    | 30                      | 2                | 26                          |
| Oborne                    | 19                      | 2                | 3                           |
| Total -                   | <u>121</u>              | <u>6</u>         | <u>57</u>                   |
| <u>Private Supplies.</u>  | <u>Total -</u>          | <u>74</u>        | <u>-</u>                    |

### (c) Proposed new supplies.

No work was commenced during the year on the scheme approved by the Ministry of Health for obtaining a major supply from the Thornford borehole. This new scheme is anxiously awaited in order to augment the present supplies and to enable the unsatisfactory supplies in the district to be eliminated.

### (d) New works and new connections.

Southern Parishes. Defective cast-iron joints on 1,758 yards of 4" and 1,169 yards of 3" main were replaced by asbestos cement screw joints during the year.

Leigh. The replacement of defective 3" cast-iron mains with a 4" asbestos cement main with joints from Calfhay to Leigh Cross was completed.

Further lengths of the cast-iron main have been reported defective as a result of the corrosive action of the soil. Schemes are being prepared for its replacement with asbestos cement pipes.

Holwell & Bishops Caundle Water Supply. The work of laying a new 4" asbestos cement main from The Fox Inn to Cornford Bridge, to replace the existing corroded 3" cast-iron main, is in progress.

Further lengths of cast-iron mains have been reported defective as a result of the corrosive action of the soil. Schemes for their replacement are being prepared.

Oborne Water Supply. An electric motor was installed at Oborne Pump-house on the 1st June 1951 to replace the existing petrol driven engine. A new  $1\frac{1}{4}$ " main was extended from the pumphouse to London Road, a distance of 153 yards. From this point a  $\frac{3}{4}$ " main was extended a distance of 266 yards to the ten houses and two dairies along the roadway.

The ram has been reconditioned.

Trent & Sandford Orcas Water Supply. The work of cleaning out the borehole, the provision of new rods and assembling was completed during the year.

New connections. The following new connections to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| (i) domestic use           | 36  |
| {ii) agricultural purposes | 8   |
| (iii) other purposes       | Nil |

(c) Details of domestic supply.

| Parish                 | Houses with public supply. | Houses with standpipes. | Houses with supply direct to house. | Population supplied (estimtd) |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Batcombe (part)        | 7                          | 2                       | 5                                   | 19                            |
| Beerhackett (part)     | 11                         | -                       | 11                                  | 34                            |
| Bradford Abbas (part)  | 18                         | -                       | 18                                  | 63                            |
| Castleton (part)       | 10                         | 5                       | 5                                   | 29                            |
| Caundle Bishop         | 76                         | 21                      | 55                                  | 227                           |
| Caundle Marsh          | 22                         | 5                       | 17                                  | 94                            |
| Caundle Purse          | 41                         | 6                       | 35                                  | 154                           |
| Chetnole               | 66                         | 9                       | 57                                  | 244                           |
| Clifton Maybank (part) | 8                          | -                       | 8                                   | 25                            |
| Folke                  | 92                         | 24                      | 68                                  | 290                           |
| Goathill               | 10                         | 4                       | 6                                   | 49                            |
| Haydon                 | 19                         | 3                       | 16                                  | 70                            |
| Hermitage              | 13                         | 5                       | 8                                   | 33                            |
| Hilfield               | 11                         | 4                       | 7                                   | 43                            |
| Holnest                | 37                         | -                       | 37                                  | 111                           |
| Holwell                | 96                         | 5                       | 91                                  | 346                           |
| Leigh                  | 109                        | 15                      | 94                                  | 383                           |
| Leweston               | 1                          | -                       | 1                                   | 20                            |
| Lillington             | 4                          | -                       | 4                                   | 12                            |
| Longburton             | 80                         | 8                       | 72                                  | 238                           |
| Melbury Bubb (part)    | 5                          | -                       | 5                                   | 17                            |
| North Wootton          | 9                          | 2                       | 7                                   | 32                            |
| Oborne                 | 39                         | 2                       | 37                                  | 108                           |
| Ryme Intrinseca        | 34                         | 7                       | 27                                  | 119                           |
| Sandford Orcas         | 51                         | 4                       | 47                                  | 182                           |
| Stockwood (part)       | 6                          | -                       | 6                                   | 24                            |
| Trent (part)           | 26                         | 1                       | 25                                  | 95                            |
| Ye tminster            | 173                        | 3                       | 170                                 | 622                           |
|                        | 1074                       | 135                     | 939                                 | 3683                          |

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Bishops Caundle. The sewerage scheme for this parish was commenced toward the latter end of the year.

Trent. A survey of this village has been completed and tenders have been invited in connection with the sewerage scheme proposed for this parish.

Bradford Abbas. A survey of this parish has been completed and it is anticipated that tenders will be invited early in 1952 in connection with the proposed sewerage scheme for this parish.

Longburton. An informal Inquiry was held by the Ministry of Local Government & Planning into this proposed scheme which has been approved in principal.

New drainage work in connection with Council houses at Chetnole, Leigh, Holnest and Poyntington have been completed during the year.

#### 4. PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) House Refuse. A monthly collection of house refuse is made throughout the district, with the exception that from the Haydon Park Polish Dependents Camp a twice weekly collection is made.

(b) Salvage (including waste paper). A monthly collection of salvage is made throughout the district. During the year salvage amounting to £199 in value was collected and disposed of.

(c) Cesspool Emptying. The Council's sludge pump is used for the regular emptying of cesspools at Council houses, and is available for the emptying of private cesspools at a fixed charge.

#### 5. RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

Complaints of pollution at the River Yeo at Bradford Abbas were received and the information passed to the Somerset River Board.

A tributary of the River Yeo at Purse Caundle has been seriously polluted by sullage water from a number of private houses, giving rise to serious nuisance. The ditch has been cleaned out at intervals during the year.

Ditches in the parishes of Chetnole, Bishops Caundle, Yetminster, Trent, Thornford, Leigh, and Bradford Abbas, have been cleaned out regularly during the year and the nuisances they have created have emphasized the need for parish sewerage schemes.

#### 6. SHOPS ACTS.

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| No. of inspections carried out | 17 |
| No. of defects found           | 1  |
| No. of notices served          | 1  |
| No. of notices complied with   | 1  |

#### 7. FACTORIES ACT 1937.

|  | <u>No. on register.</u> | <u>Inspections</u> |
|--|-------------------------|--------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities   | 3                       | 23                 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 12                      | 12                 |
| Total -  | 15                      | 35                 |

Total Number of outworkers = 106

#### 8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

#### 9. SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district which is used by the public by special permission. The water is derived from springs and is chlorinated when in use.

#### 10. MOVABLE DWELLINGS & CAMPING SITES.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| No. of movable dwellings licensed during year | 5 |
| No. of camping sites licensed in the district | 1 |

## 11. VERMINOUS' PREMISES.

No action was called for or taken during the year in respect to such premises.

## 12. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS.

The duties of the District Council under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 are carried out in the district by the North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities now cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District. An increase in the staff and activities of this Committee is proposed at the present time.

## 13. RAG FLOCK & OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT 1951.

|  |     |
|--|-----|
| No. of registered premises (if any)                        | Nil |
| No. of licensed premises (if any)                          | Nil |
| No. of inspections carried out in respect to such premises | Nil |

## 14. SCHOOLS SANITATION.

All schools in the district (including school canteens) were inspected during the year. Conditions were found to be satisfactory.

## 15. NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948 - SECTION 47.

No action was taken during the year.

## 16. HOUSING.

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

|   |      |
|---|------|
| (1) (a) No. of houses inspected during the year   | 203  |
| (b) No. of inspections made   | 460  |
| (2) (1) No. of informal notices served  | 17   |
| (2) No. of informal notices complied with   | 17   |
| (3) No. of statutory notices served   | 1    |
| (4) No. of statutory notices complied with  | Nil  |
| (3) (1) No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936   | 16   |
| (2) Action taken by the local authority in respect of such houses -   |      |
| (a) Demolition Orders made  | Nil  |
| (b) Undertakings accepted for -   |      |
| (i) re-conditioning   | 16   |
| (ii) closure  | 1    |
| (4) Overcrowding.   |      |
| (a) No. of cases of 'statutory' overcrowding found and reported to the Local Authority  | 1    |
| (b) No. of cases of overcrowding abated   | 1    |
| (c) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. |      |
| Total number of houses in the district  | 1747 |

## Requisitioned premises etc.

10 houses were held under requisition at the end of the year. 2 houses on which Demolition or Closing Orders had been made were being occupied under licence at the end of the year.

(5) Provision of new houses and re-housing.

No. of houses provided by the local authority -

|                 | <u>Temporary<br/>Prefab.</u> | <u>Swedish<br/>Timber.</u> | <u>Traditional<br/>Type.</u> | <u>Other.</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| {a} During 1951 | -                            | -                          | 22                           | -             |
| {b} Post-war    | -                            | -                          | 121                          | -             |

Total number of families re-housed during 1951 33

Rural Housing Survey.

|            | <u>Prior to 1951.</u> |                  | <u>No. of inspections<br/>during 1951.</u> |                  |
|------------|-----------------------|------------------|--|------------------|
|            | <u>Preliminary.</u>   | <u>Detailed.</u> | <u>Preliminary.</u>                        | <u>Detailed.</u> |
| Category 1 | 446                   | -                | -  | 22               |
| " 2        | 540                   | -                | -  | 14               |
| " 3        | 512                   | -                | -  | 32               |
| " 4        | 114                   | 80               | -  | 3                |
| " 5        | 96                    | 63               | -  | 14               |
|            | <u>1708</u>           | <u>143</u>       | <u>-</u>                                   | <u>85</u>        |

Housing Act 1949 - Improvement Grants.

3 applications were received during the year for grants under this Act. In each case the grant had to be refused in so far as they were in respect to tied cottages, and the owners were not prepared to give the tenants full protection of the Rent Restrictions Act against summary eviction in the event of the employment terminating.

I see little prospect of the facilities offered by this Act having any material effect on present housing conditions. Any work in connection with which a Grant is given has to be carried out under the general 'licensing ceiling' of the local authority in respect to repair and other similar work. For this reason, even though a local authority may be anxious to publicize the availability of these grants and encourage the 'improvement' of sub-standard property within its district, it is realized that to do so would be totally impracticable if, at the same time, it is not possible to issue the necessary licences within the limited 'licensing ceiling'.

Furthermore, where improvements are contemplated in property already requiring extensive repair work (and this applies to a considerable proportion of the property where 'improvements' are desirable) the improvement of such dwellings becomes economically impossible by reason of limitations imposed by the Rent Restrictions Act referred to below.

A further limitation so far imposed with regard to the granting of Improvement Grants is that the facilities do not extend to tied cottages. If this limitation was removed, together with those imposed by the Rent Restrictions Act, I have little doubt that many tied cottages now out of use, would be brought back into use to the advantage of farming in general and to the local housing authority.

Following inspections carried out by the Medical Officer of Health of the conditions under which 7 applicants for Council houses were living, 3 recommendations for the granting of additional points on medical grounds were made.

Comments.

From the above figures it will be seen that 22 new Council houses were provided during the year as compared with 8 during the preceding year.

At the end of the year there were 140 applicants for Council houses, of which 118 were resident within the district. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were 123 and 104 respectively.

General Remarks.

The provision of new houses alone cannot be expected to solve the present housing problem. Indeed, the present indications are that an increasing number of applicants are finding that they cannot afford to pay the rents now charged, and some authorities are seriously considering whether, with their present resources, they can afford financially to continue providing new houses to the extent they have done in the past.

The concurrent repair, reconditioning and 'improvement' of existing older houses is as equally necessary as the provision of new houses. It may be argued that the existing Housing Law gives a local housing authority full power to carry out their duties in this direction. Even if this may be so, an authority fully conscious of its responsibilities with regard to sub-standard property, is understandably reluctant to take action when it is clearly apparent that even the most benevolent landlord finds it economically impossible to maintain his existing property in a reasonable state of repair because of the present limitations imposed by the Rent Restrictions Acts.

A modification of these Acts in favour of the landlord who is prepared to keep his property in a fit condition is urgently called for if many people, now living in unfit property and who have neither the means nor the desire to live in new Council houses, are to live under reasonable conditions.

17. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

(1) Milk.

Food & Drugs (Milk & Dairies) Act 1944.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| (a) No. of 'dealers' registered on the 1st October 1949<br>by the District Council under regulation 14 of the<br>Milk (Special Designations)(Raw Milk) Regulations 1949 | 2 |
| (b) No. of 'dealers' licensed under regulation 14 of the<br>Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised<br>Milk) Regulations 1949                           | 4 |
| (c) No. of 'dairies' in the district registered under<br>regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949  | 6 |
| (d) No. of 'distributors' registered under regulation 8<br>of the Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949   | 6 |

Samples.

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Tuberculin Tested | 11 |
| Accredited        | 8  |
| Pasteurised       | 16 |
| Non-Designated    | 19 |

Milk & Dairies Regulations 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

No. of premises in the district subject to Section 13  
of the Food & Drugs Act 1938

45

No. of such premises which are restaurant kitchens

3

hotel kitchens

1

food factories

1

No. of premises subject to Section 13 inspected during year

45

No. inspected being -

10

restaurant kitchens

1

hotel kitchens

9

food factories

9

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| No. of premises in the district subject to registration under Section 14 of the Food & Drugs Act 1938 | <u>3</u>   |
| No. of such premises registered in respect to -   |            |
| (a) Ice-cream   | <u>2</u>   |
| (b) Sausages & prepared meats   | <u>1</u>   |
| No. of such premises inspected during the year  | <u>49</u>  |
| No. of samples of ice-cream taken and submitted for Methylene Blue Test                               | <u>Nil</u> |

#### Food Inspection.

(a) Slaughterhouses. There is one private licensed slaughterhouse in the district.

(b) Butchers and other shops. Quantities condemned -

1 x 12 oz. tin of Danish Pork Brawn (blown)

#### Other Food.

6 lb. tin Hamburg Jellied Veal (blown)  
 14 lbs. Processed Cheese (contaminated by rats)  
 14 lbs. Processed Cheese (affected with mould)  
 36 x 8 oz. boxes of processed cheese (mould)  
 840 x 7 lbs. tins corned beef (blown)  
 3 x 12 oz. tins of luncheon meat (blown)  
 2 tins 1½ pints of evaporated milk (pierced)

#### 18. INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

|                                   |          |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| No. of investigations carried out | <u>2</u> |
| No. of disinfections carried out  | <u>2</u> |

#### 19. SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Total No. of inspections (under all headings) | <u>1108</u> |
| Total No. of informal notices served          | <u>34</u>   |
| Total No. of informal notices complied with   | <u>33</u>   |
| Total No. of statutory notices served         | <u>2</u>    |
| Total No. of statutory notices complied with  | <u>1</u>    |
| No. of prosecutions                           | <u>Nil</u>  |

#### D. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

##### Incidence -

| <u>Disease.</u> | <u>Total Cases Notified.</u> |
|-----------------|------------------------------|
| Pneumonia       | <u>9</u>                     |
| Whooping cough  | <u>47</u>                    |
| Measles         | <u>214</u>                   |

It will be noticed that there was an increased prevalence of measles which continued throughout the first half of the year. It was widespread throughout the district. Whooping cough was prevalent during the latter months of the year.

##### Tuberculosis.

| <u>New Cases Notified.</u> | <u>Deaths.</u>          |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>Respiratory.</u>        | <u>Non-Respiratory.</u> |
| <u>8</u>                   | <u>3</u>                |
| <u>-</u>                   | <u>-</u>                |

8 new cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. The corresponding figures for the two preceding years were 3 and 7.

##### Food Poisoning.

No cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON  
Medical Officer of Health.  
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